

# If Their Utterances Are Expressions of Real Feeling, Rival Managers Have No Hope of Beating John McGraw

## GIANTS TOO STRONG, SAVANNAH LEADERS

Moran and Stallings Predict National League Pennant for New York.

## PUT CURB ON MCGRAWMEN

By FREDERICK G. LIEB.

The outstanding feature of the National League meeting in this city last week was the statement by leading managers that their chances for finishing on top in the 1917 pennant race were exceedingly slim. Almost to a man the managers who visited the Waldorf expressed the opinion that the Giants will have a walkover season under the management of John McGraw.

Stallings, manager of the third place Braves, whose team was in the running last season until the last week of the season, made it unambiguously clear that he did not expect a pennant for the Braves. "The only team the Braves are a whop about are the Giants," he said. "The other clubs won't count."

## Strongest Team in League.

As for the Western teams, they don't matter. They have all awarded the pennant to the Giants. The second place Cubs, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Boston and Cleveland will have only one thought—to try their way into the first division. Callahan, Mitchell, Hughes and Matty will all be experimenting for other years. There really isn't a manager in the National League who does not expect a runaway for the Giants. They say without reserve that the Giants, as now constituted, are the strongest team the league has developed since the Cubs were in their prime.

## Legislation to Hamper Giants.

The elimination of the disability and refusal hereafter to recognize such players as McGraw actually had twenty-three men to choose from. The club could choose such players as P. W. Way, George Smith and Keith. They were signed to side contracts, but tied them up to the Giants but did not permit them to play in actual games. Toward the end of the season both Smith and Keith were sworn into regular service. Hereafter if the Giants desire to sign any more players, they must be paid within the twenty-two limit of the league will not respect the contract.

Baker's resolution prohibiting the sale of players of players after August 1 unless each other club in the league has waived on a player will prevent a club from strengthening its team in the latter part of the season. McGraw's last fall, Herzog came here before August 1, but the Saline, Zimmerman and McCarty deals were made after that date.

## Remodeled Team Hurt Phillies.

It is Baker's opinion that the new men procured by the Giants last fall cut in the Phillies' chances for a pennant. The Phillies, who had a fine lead about Labor Day by winning eight straight games from their closest rivals—five from Brooklyn and three from Boston—lost four successive games to the remodeled Giants. That Philadelphia percentage suffered a blow in that series from which it never recovered.

Even the National League plan to divide the world's series purse among the players of the entire league would help the league against the runaway. With all the players getting a slice of the pie, the players ranging in size proportionally to where the club finishes, interest in the league will be keener than heretofore. Even should the Giants make a runaway race the other players will continue fighting with a fixed incentive in view. This idea is a splendid one and practically is sure of adoption.

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## HANDICAPS BEAT FEHER.

Makes Best Time in Run, but Finishes in Luck.

Handicaps proved too much for A. Feher, the little distance runner of the Hungarian American A. C. yesterday afternoon in the annual race of the Yorkville Athletic League. He started from scratch and despite the fact that he ran much faster than his opponents finished far in the rear. In the time prize, however, traveling the distance in 25 minutes and 20 seconds.

## NAVY ELEVEN DROPPED.

Pittsburgh Also Falls to Schedule Allegiance.

Pittsburgh, Dec. 17.—Navy and Allegheny College have been dropped from the University of Pittsburgh football schedule and games have been scheduled with Lehigh, West Virginia and Bethany College. The annual game at Philadelphia and Syracuse will play Pitt here. The complete schedule as announced to-night follows:

## CELTIC PASSERS WIN.

The New York Celtic basketball team defeated the New York Athletic Club yesterday afternoon by a score of 23 to 10. The game was played at the Amsterdam Opera House.

## ATHLETES TRAVEL OVER SNOW AND ICE IN BROOKLYN RUN

Despite the cold and ice covered roads, thirty-two young runners representing a dozen Brooklyn clubs competed in the five mile road race of the Long Island Athletic League yesterday afternoon.

They went into action prepared to fight the cold and slippery roads; they wore warm clothing and spiked shoes; they wore caps and gloves and jerseys, and their legs were encased in heavy woolens. As a result, all traveled over the snow and ice in good condition.

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Walkers Club Athletes Enjoy Long Hike.

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